

Filed for intro on 02/24/97
HOUSE BILL 1930 By
Chumney

SENATE BILL 1946
By Dixon

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, relative to nursing homes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 11, Part 2, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

Section ____ (a) Upon funds being appropriated for such purpose, the Tennessee Commission on Aging shall establish eighteen (18) part-time nursing home/care ombudsman positions. Two (2) positions shall be created for each development district. The purpose and duties of the ombudsmen shall include recruiting, training, managing and coordinating activities of volunteers who shall assist the district ombudsmen and be representatives of such ombudsmen.

(b) The Tennessee Commission on Aging shall have the authority to hire or delegate the hiring to the appropriate local aging agency with the salary of each part-time ombudsman not to exceed ten dollars (\$10.00) an hour for a maximum work week of twenty (20) hours a week.

(c) The Commission shall develop a training program for the ombudsmen.

(d) Each nursing home/care ombudsman or volunteer representative shall have access to nursing home/care facilities at all reasonable times.

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SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-11-209(e), is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated item:

() Notwithstanding any other provision of law, rule or regulation to the contrary, any fee assessed on the effective date of this act for nursing aides or nursing assistants in nursing homes either for training or application fees shall be reduced by fifty percent (50%).

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 11, Part 10, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

Section _____. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, a nursing home is required to check the abuse registry established in accordance with §68-11-1001 prior to hiring any person. A nursing home is prohibited from hiring any person whose name is contained in such registry.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-11-207(a), is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated item:

() The person to whom a license has been issued under this chapter, operates any other illegal, unlicensed facility.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-11-811, is amended as follows:

(1) in subsection (a) by deleting the language “one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500)”, and by substituting instead the language “one thousand six hundred dollars (\$1,600)”;

(2) in subsection (b) by deleting the language “five hundred dollars (\$500)”, and by substituting instead the language “six hundred dollars (\$600)”;

(3) in subsection (c) by deleting the language “two hundred fifty dollars (\$250)”, and by substituting instead the language “three hundred dollars (\$300)”.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 1997, the public welfare requiring it.

